Ciel Scans
presents

Akumu no Sumu Ie - Ghost Hunt

Chapter 13 v2

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Even during a serious investigation,

it's fine if there's a brief teatime and girls' talk.

悪夢の住人

ゴーストハント

13

THEY WOULD SUE.

—WILL SUE.

FU

"IS THAT OKAY?"

FU

AH

UHH

...BECAUSE IF I WOULDN'T...

FU

THE CONSTRUCTION...

FU

WHISPER WHISPER

Di-

Did he say some-thing?

Uh-huh

Looks scary

...DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?

——I BROUGHT THE INCIDENT'S RECORD.

HE TRACKED THE RECORD DOWN FROM THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE.

I MADE MY COLLEAGUE SEARCH FOR IT.

!!!?

IT ISN'T.

...IS IT OK TO TAKE THAT OUT?

WELL THEN, PLEASE BEAR WITH ME.

FOR NOW, AS I LOOK OVER EVERYTHING, I'LL SUMMA-RIZE AND EXPLAIN.

SINCE IT CAN'T BE SHOWN TO YOU,

RUSTLE

—I'VE DECIDED NOT TO DENY SUCH THINGS RIGHT NOW.

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?

YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE IN THINGS LIKE PSYCHIC POWERS, RIGHT?

"BECAUSE OF THIS PILE OF FACTS, THAT GIRL WILL BE CALLED A PSYCHIC."

THEN, I'LL TRY TO PRETEND TO BELIEVE THEM.

BUT I CAN UNDER-STAND WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THIS HOUSE.

NEVERTHELESS, EVEN I WON'T AFFIRM THAT.

THE EFFECT OF THIS PILE TO THE NEGATIVE AND AFFIRMATIVE PARTIES ALSO

I WILL JUDGE EVERY DETAIL.

AT FIRST GLANCE, HOW TRUE IS EVERY PHENOMENON THAT MYSTERIOUSLY APPEARS?

——IT SEEMS THAT...

THE INCIDENT HAPPENED AT APPROXI-MATELY 2 AM OF OCT. 11, 19XX.

IF THAT'S THE CASE, ISN'T IT ALL RIGHT?

A YEAR BEFORE THE INCIDENT, THE KAWANABE FAMILY PURCHASED THIS LAND AND BUILT A NEW HOME.

THE FOLLOWING SUMMER, THE NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE

IT'S THE SEKIGUCHIS WHO PURCHASED AND MOVED OVER WHERE THE SASAKURA FAMILY CURRENTLY IS.

AS EXPECTED, THE CAUSE IS THE TROUBLE OVER THE LAND.

FOR THIS REASON, THE KAWANABE FAMILY COMPLAINED TO THE SEKIGUCHI FAMILY.

THE BUILDING IS JUST ON THE PLOT, BUT THE EAVES ARE PERFECTLY TRANSGRESSING THE BORDER FOR THE KAWANABE FAMILY.

THERE, THEIR HOUSE WAS CONSTRUCTED BEYOND THE PLOT'S BOUNDARY LINE.

HE WAS STUMPED.

SEKIGUCHI ONLY PURCHASED THE BRAND-NEW HOUSE, AND HE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ARCHITECTURE ITSELF.

BUT IT WAS A TROUBLESOME CONVERSATION EVEN FOR SEKIGUCHI.

The Kawanabe family noticed, during the foundation work of the neighboring house, how extremely near it was,

but the construction contractor explained that a block fence would be built for the trouble. They ended up consenting to it.

Yet they realized that the construction of the house proceeded differently.

THEY WANTED TO STOP THE CONSTRUCTION, BUT THE CONTRACTOR DIDN'T RESPOND TO THEM.

IN FACT IF THEY MADE HIM STOP IT, THEY WOULD HAVE TO BUY THE HOUSE,

AND THEY WERE TOLD THAT THEY MUST COMPENSATE FOR THE PART THAT WOULD BE RECONSTRUCTED.

IN ADDITION HE EVEN INTIMATED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH A YAKUZA LORD.

THE KAWANABE FAMILY HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO BE SILENT AND WATCH THE HOUSE BE BUILT.

NO WAY...

AND THEN THERE CAME SEKIGUCHI.

SEKIGUCHI WAS SAID TO BE A GENTLE SALARYMAN, AND, AS A MATTER OF FACT, SOMEWHAT TIMID.

THE CONTRACTOR WON'T TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT?

AND EVEN IF THEY CONFRONT HIM, THE CONTRACTOR WILL INSIST THAT HE "DIDN'T KNOW."

OF COURSE, SEKIGUCHI BROUGHT THAT UP IN THEIR DISCUSSION.

On top of all he suffered from the threats of scary-looking young people,

Sekiguchi was caught and cornered in between by the Kawanabe family and the contractor.

The Kawanabe family carried on with their complaint against Sekiguchi.

"ANYWAY, WE WANT YOU TO DO SOMETHING TO THE PART THAT'S BORDERING UPON OUR HOUSE.

"PLEASE FIX THE CONSTRUCTION."

"EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT...

"BECAUSE WE JUST BOUGHT THIS HOUSE, WE CURRENTLY DO NOT HAVE EXTRA MONEY."

THE KAWA-NABE FAMILY CUT OFF THE DEADLINE UNTIL THE END OF OC-TOBER

IF THE CONSTRUCTION WOULD NOT START, THEY WERE CLAIMING THEY WOULD SUE SEKIGUCHI

IT WAS ON OCT 10 BEFORE THE INCIDENT, THAT BOTH FAMILIES HELD THEIR LAST DISCUS-SION.

CONFERRING DURING THEIR DAY OFF.

THE KANABE FAMILY PROBABLY FACED SEKIGUCHI WITH THE GRUDGE FROM WHEN THEY WERE THREAT-ENED BY THE CONTRACTOR

EVEN THOUGH IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO GO THAT FAR

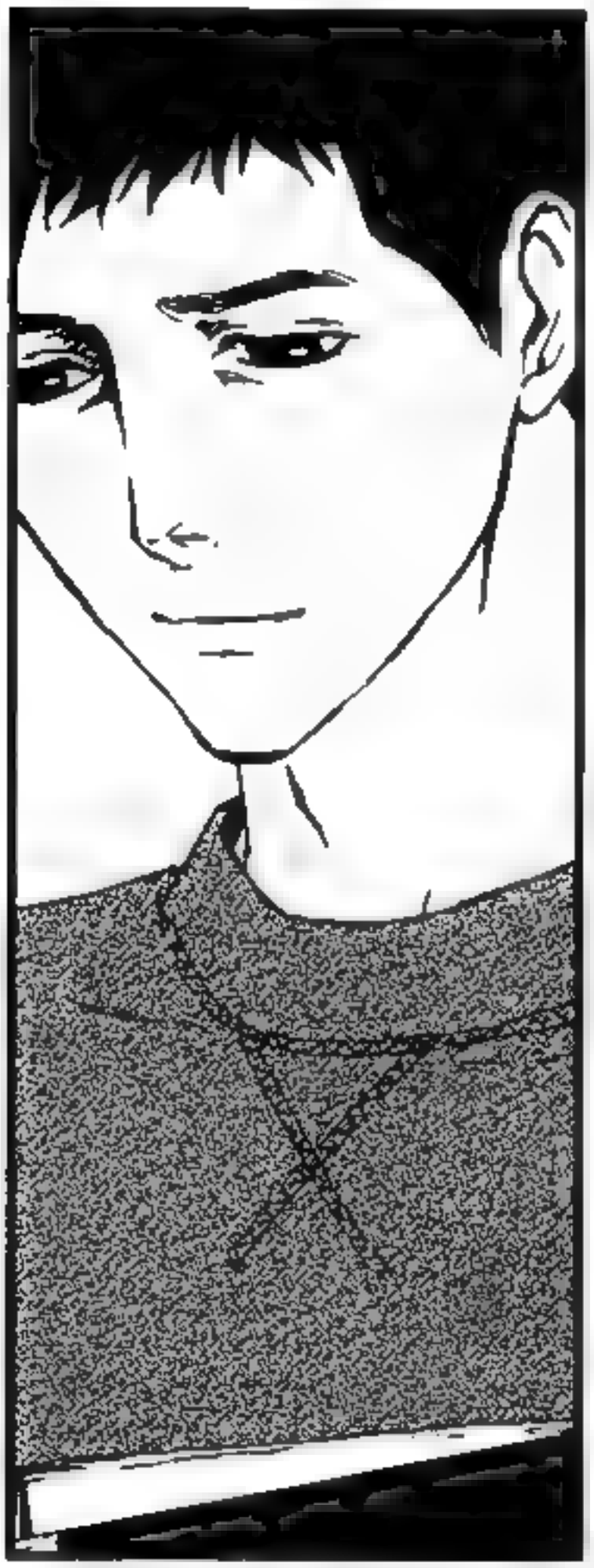
REGARDING THIS, IT WAS THE KAWANABE FAMILY WHO WANTED TO SPEAK ONLY ON THE 10TH

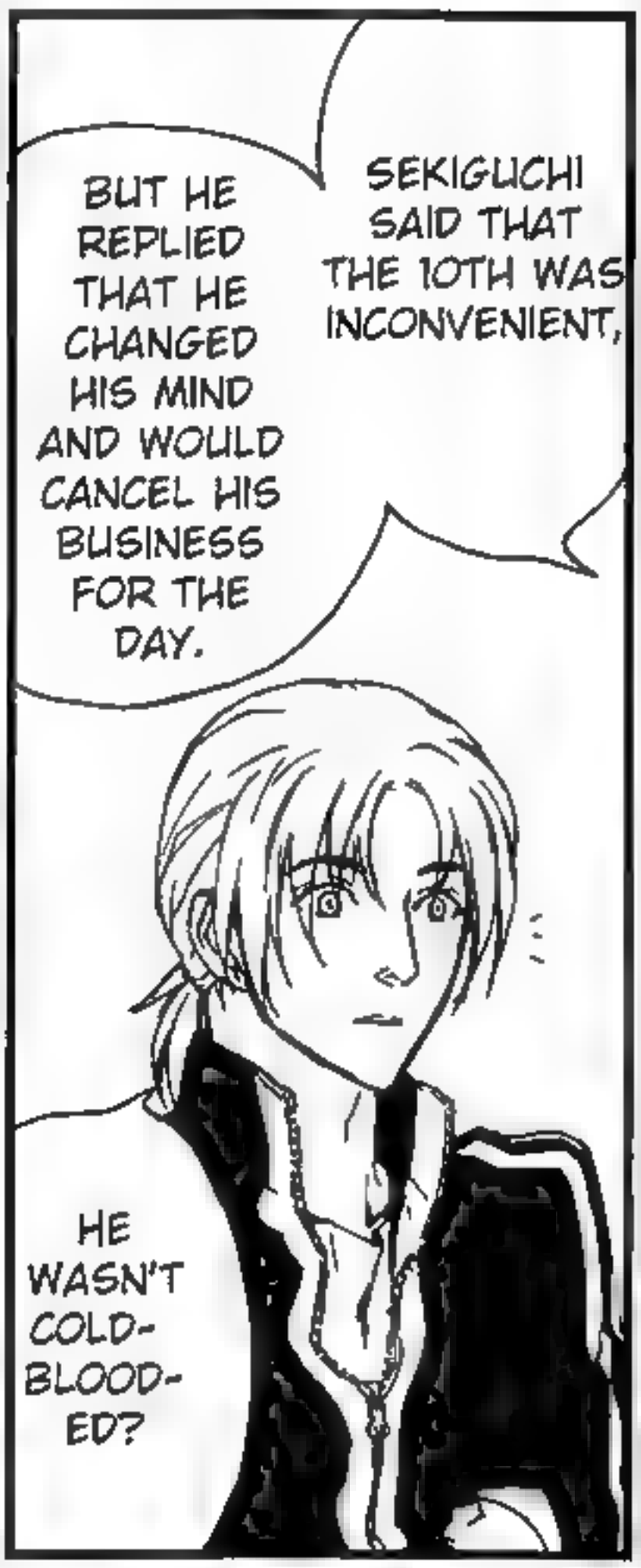
THE ADULTS DIDN'T WANT TO BE SEEN ARGUING BY THEIR CHI-DREN.

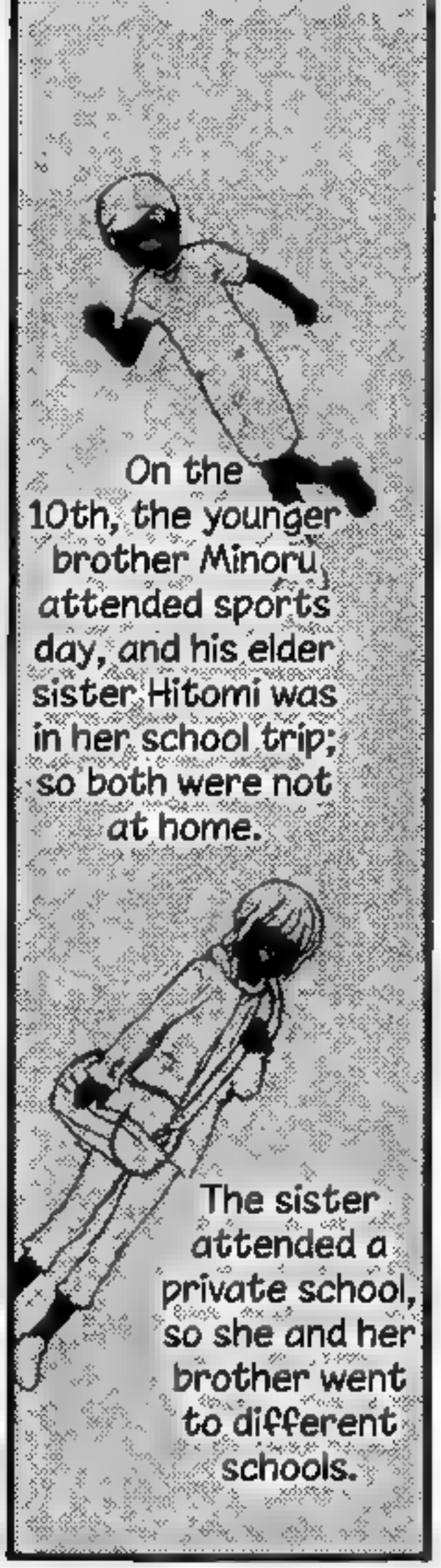
IT WAS ON SEPT 30 THAT THE KAWANABE FAMILY GAVE AN ULTIMA-TUM.

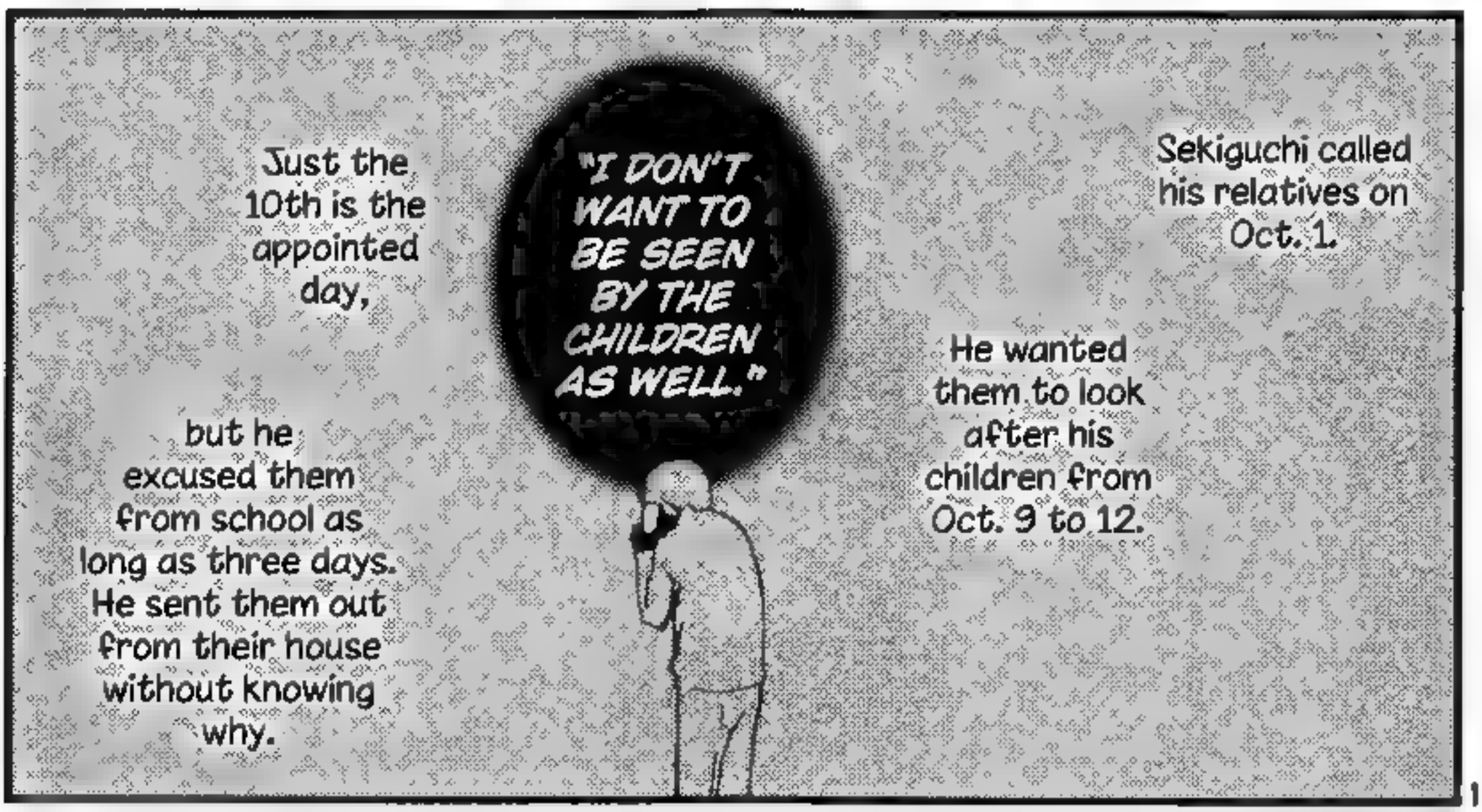
AT THIS TIME, SEKIGUCHI REPLIED WHETHER HE WOULD RAISE MONEY BY THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER.

〖悪夢の棲む家　ゴーストハント〗









IT SEEMS THAT SEKIGUCHI HAD DECIDED TO COMMIT A CRIME AT THIS POINT...

...A MURDER OCCURRED FROM 2:30 IN THE AFTERNOON TO NEARLY 3 O'CLOCK ON THE 10TH.

THE MIYAMURA FAMILY WAS SITTING AT THE DINNER TABLE WITH MIYAMURA'S YOUNGEST BROTHER, WHO WAS HOME FROM COLLEGE FOR THE SUMMER BREAK.

AND LONG TIME NEIGHBOR, A WIDOW NAMED MRS. [illegible].

THEIR DISCUSSION WITH HIM EVENTUALLY GAVE THEM RESOLVE TO FACE DOWN SEKIGUCHI'S OPPOSITION.

SINCE HE WAS A COUNSELOR FIRST AND FOREMOST, HE WAS CONCERNED...

THE MIYAMURA FAMILY SAT WITH TOSHIKO'S BROTHER HERE.

In the dead of night, Sekiguchi and Mitsue...

carried deadly weapons and broke into the Kawanabe house through the backdoor.

They knew that they didn't need a key to open the backdoor.

WITH THIS, SEKIGUCHI CONSENTED AND WENT BACK HOME.

IN THE MIDDLE OF OCTOBER. THE CASE WAS ABOUT TO BE DECIDED IN THE COURTROOM.

THEY'RE NOT SATISFIED ABOUT STARTING THE CONSTRUCTION ...

HOWEVER |

SEKIGUCHI'S DECISION WAS ALREADY SET THERE.

THEY WOULD STILL BE LIVING IN THEIR HOUSES, WOULDN'T THEY?

AT THAT TIME, IF THEY HAD FOUND A COMMON GROUND,

...WHY?

...FROM THEN ON,

THE POLICE INVESTIGATORS JUDGED FROM THE RESULTS OF THEIR ON-SITE INSPECTION. THEY CAME TO INFER—

THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THAT YASUHISA HAD PUT UP A FIGHT.

BUT THAT ALONE DID NOT KILL HIM. SO THEY STABBED HIS CHEST WITH A KITCHEN KNIFE THEY BROUGHT, AND LEFT HIM TO DIE.

AND STRUCK THE SLEEPING OLD YASUHISA WITH A HAMMER.

THAT IS TO SAY, THEY TURNED UP HERE...

THAT THE SEKIGUCHIS ENTERED THE BACKDOOR AND THE NEARBY ROOM.

Here!!

They killed the husband, Yasuhiko, with a hatchet first,

and then the wife, Toshiko, who ran past four half-mats*.

They chased her up to her son's, Minoru's, room, hit her with a hatchet, and stabbed her with a kitchen knife.

Next they ascended to the second floor and went in Mr. and Mrs. Kawanabe's bedroom.

!

IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER OR NOT TOSHIKO WAS CONSCIOUS WHEN IT HAPPENED,

BUT THE SEKIGUCHIS BROKE AND WENT INTO MINORU'S ROOM IN FRONT OF HER COLLAPSED FORM.

Her cause of death was blood loss, so she didn't die instantly.

*half the size of a tatami mat

"SPARE THAT CHILD AT LEAST."

"PLEASE..."

I THINK...

SHE WAS CONSCIOUS...

AFTER THEY KILLED FOUR PEOPLE,

Probably bloodthirsty, Sekiguchi flew into a rage,

and he killed Mitsue with the kitchen knife.

I think, at that time, Sekiguchi has already completely deviated from the proper course.

the Sekiguchis returned home and washed their hands.

Most likely they came to prepare for the disposal of the corpses.

But Kazuo and Mitsue had a quarrel there.

THE PROBLEM WAS THE CORPSES OF MR. AND MRS. KAWANABE.

THEY WERE TOO HEAVY FOR SEKI-GUCHI TO CARRY ALONE.

Yasuhisa's corpse was covered with the sheet next,

and then Sekiguchi placed him on top of Minoru's corpse like a pile.

First he wrapped Minoru's corpse with the vinyl sheet he had prepared and took the boy out to the backyard.

Sekiguchi left his wife's corpse in the living room and returned to the Kawanabe house.

He easily cleaned the wooden floors of the hallways and the staircase.

But he didn't turn the lights on. It was assumed that he abandoned the task halfway.

He carried the two into the bathroom and attempted to clean the house first.

but the staircase and the second floor hallway were messy.

The hallway of the first floor had been wiped and cleansed for it to be quite clean,

SO THAT'S PROBABLY WHY HE THOUGHT OF CUTTING THEIR CORPSES APART.

EEP

the daughter, Hitomi, arrived at that moment.

Sekiguchi, who proceeded to the bathroom, started his dissection of Yasuhiko first.

He severed the latter's head and tossed it into the bathtub.

Then he severed the limbs; he lopped off the right leg and took the left leg. Incidentally—

THE WEAPON IS THE HATCHET.

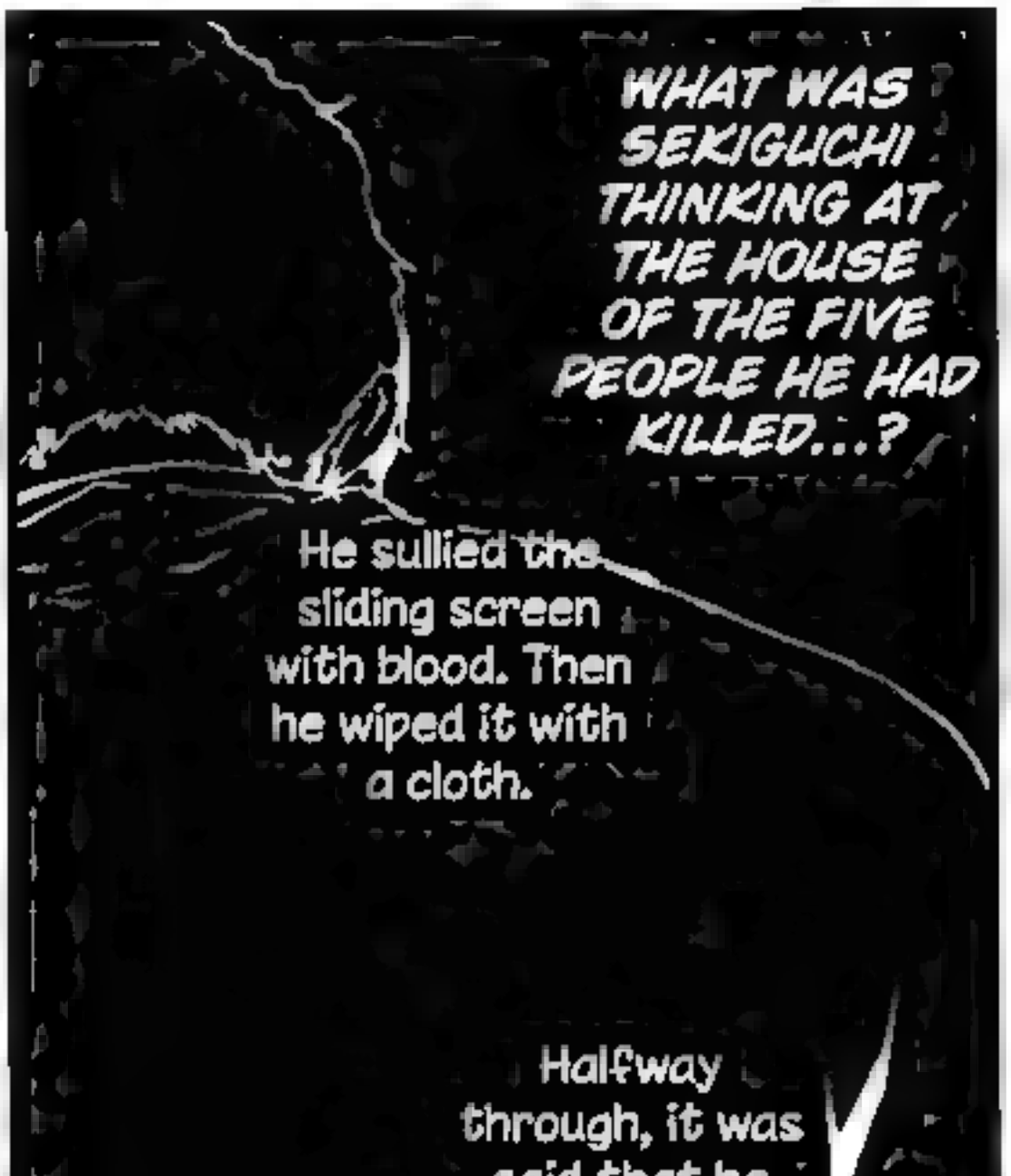
AT THE TIME OF YASUHIKO'S DISSECTION, ITS BLADE BROKE AND NEARLY CRUMBLED.

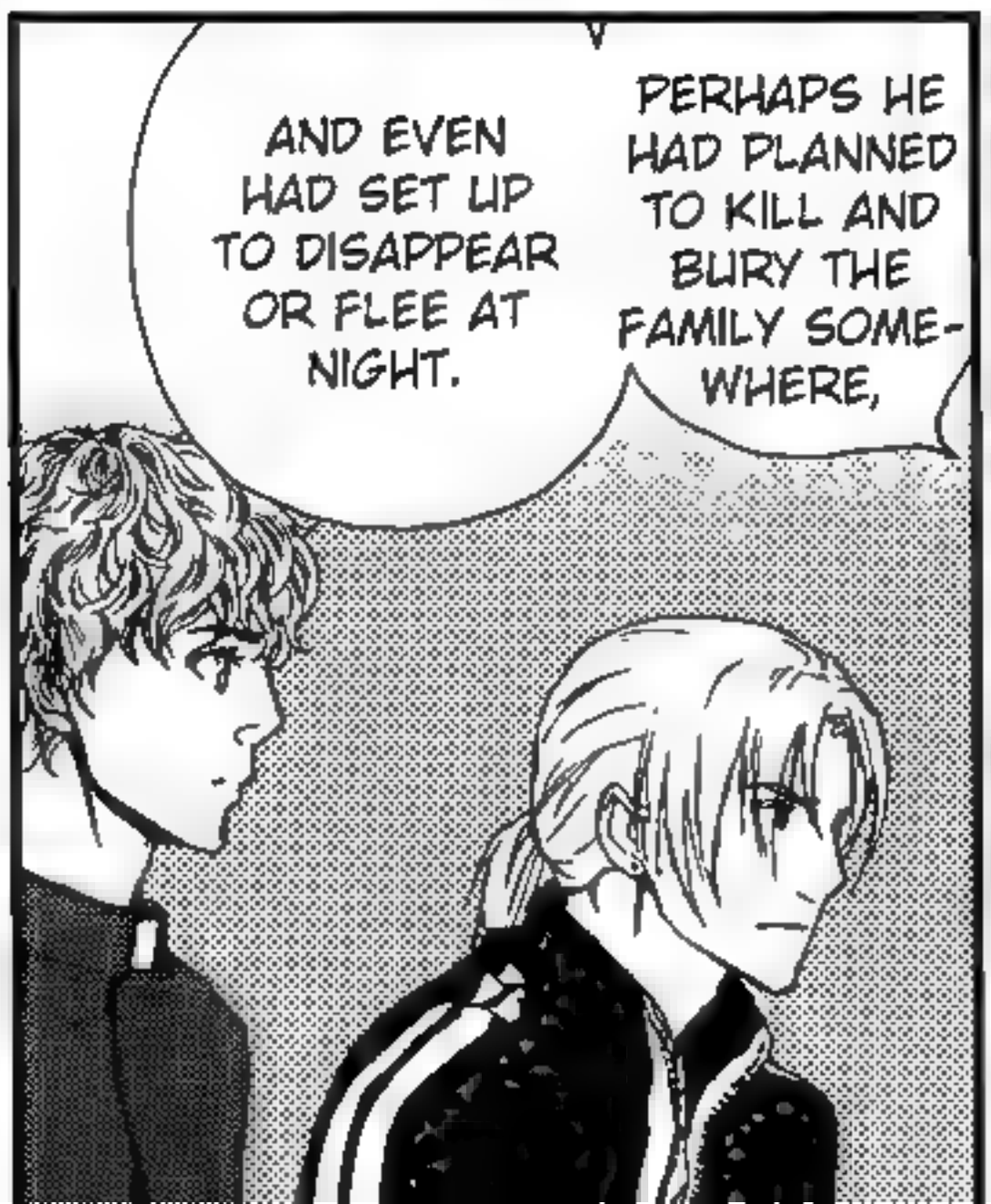
It was before 10 o'clock in the morning that Hitomi returned from her school trip.

She was struck by Sekiguchi from behind when she leaned over the washbasin.

...HOW AWFUL ...

He placed two brand-new shovels in his car,
and he put the Kawanabes' valuables together in a paper bag. He then carelessly threw it on top of their corpses in the backyard.


WHAT WAS SEKIGUCHI THINKING AT THE HOUSE OF THE FIVE PEOPLE HE HAD KILLED...?
He sullied the sliding screen with blood. Then he wiped it with a cloth.
Halfway through, it was said that he repeatedly stopped to clean around,
so the appearance of the scene of the crime was unusual.


AND EVEN HAD SET UP TO DISAPPEAR OR FLEE AT NIGHT.
PERHAPS HE HAD PLANNED TO KILL AND BURY THE FAMILY SOMEWHERE,

It was on the night of Oct. 11.

BUT SEKIGUCHI ABANDONED EVERYTHING HALFWAY AND RETURNED TO HIS HOME.

DID HE LEAVE BECAUSE IT DIDN'T GO AS PLANNED?

OR DID HE COME BACK TO HIS SENSES AFTER HE GOT TIRED AND KILLED HIS PARTNER WHOM HE STRUCK IN A RAGE—?

Afterwards, Sekiguchi used the bathroom in his house.

He changed his clothes, but he washed the soiled ones and threw them in a garbage can.

By a lintel he suspended his noosed belt and hanged himself.

TO LEAVE THOSE PITIFUL SPIRITS TO WANDER ABOUT...

BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT WHAT MIDORI-SAN AND HER MOTHER FEEL, IT'S BETTER TO EXORCISE THEM, RIGHT?

IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE DOING SOME-THING BAD,

YEAH...

THE PROBLEM IS WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE SPIRITS.

...THOSE FIVE SPIRITS ARE ONLY ROAMING ABOUT.

*In volume 12 of the previous series, we learned that bitter/sad spirits are heavy and therefore sink. by "lifting" them up, they move on or something.

AND GIVING HER A LIFT* IS POSSIBLE.

BUT I WONDER ABOUT THE FOUR OTHER PEOPLE.

THE GIRL DEFINITELY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THAT SHE IS DEAD,

?

ALTHOUGH IT IS ALL RIGHT IF THE FIVE PEOPLE WERE INTERESTED IN BEING PURIFIED ...

FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THOSE FOUR PEOPLE, THEY ARE DESPERATE TO DEFEND THE GIRL AGAINST ME.

IT'S BECAUSE THEY FLANK HER. THE OTHER SPIRITS WHOM I TALK TO DO NOT FEEL LIKE REPLYING SOMEHOW.

BUT I DIDN'T FEEL THAT MY WORDS GOT THROUGH THEM EVEN A BIT.

THIS AFTERNOON, I TRIED TO ADDRESS THEM MANY TIMES,

UGH

I KNOW, RIGHT...?

WHAT'S THE MATTER, NARU-CHAN?

WHAT GLOOMY THINGS ARE YOU ALSO THINKING?

BY ANY CHANCE, DO YOU KNOW THE REASON BEHIND THE MIRROR WIN-DOWS?

...IT'S A SIMPLE THING.

I THOUGHT BOU-SAN'S EXPLANATION THAT "IT'S BE-CAUSE SOME-ONE WILL PEER INSIDE" WASN'T BAD, BUT...

IT'S ONLY THE REASON FOR THAT WHICH I'M NOT FULLY SATISFIED WITH YET.

IF...

IF THOSE EYES ARE SIGNIFICANT, SHOULDN'T I SAY SOMETHING?

WILL PEER IN...

...NO.

AS I'D THOUGHT, THAT THING WAS JUST MY IMAGINATION.

THAT WAS NO MORE THAN AN ILLUSION SEEN DUE TO FATIGUE.

IT WASN'T KOSORI WHO WAS PEERING IN?

BECAUSE DIDN'T THE PERSON POSSESSED BY MINORU-KUN SEE KOSORI OUTSIDE THE WINDOW OR SOMETHING?

IN THE FIRST PLACE,

THERE IS NO MONSTER THAT IS ATTACHED TO THIS PLACE AND CALLED KOSORI, RIGHT?

ISN'T THAT A PRANK

THEN, THE CULPRIT IS A HUMAN BEING FROM ANOTHER HOUSE. THE MOTIVE IS UNKNOWN, IS IT NOT?

...FOR INSTANCE, EVEN IF IT WERE AN ILLUSION,

SHOULDN'T I LET THESE GUYS DECIDE WHAT'S TRUE?

THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR ME TO CLING TO MY PRIDE

IS IF THAT BECOMES A CLUE. I MUST NOT HIDE IT.

I CAN'T EVEN GUESS. BUT THE ONLY WAY THAT MIDORI-SAN AND COMPANY WILL NOT FEEL DISADVANTAGED...

WHETHER IT IS SIGNIFICANT OR NOT.

...I...

I SAW THE GUY WHO'S PEERING IN.

I THINK...

HIROTA RESOLUTELY CONFESSES...!!

*This series is updated every 2 months.

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